

DD/S 66-6554

29 Jan 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Control of Agency Communications

1. This memorandum is for your information and is in response to your request at the Executive Committee Meeting on 29 November 1965 for justification for the Agency's control of its own communications.

2. Attached hereto is a memorandum from the Director of Communications setting forth the relations of the Agency to the National Communications Management, together with the basic responsibilities of these two establishments. Further, there is set forth the justification for the Agency's control of its communications system, together with examples of Agency communications performance exemplifying the need for Agency control of its own communications.

3. As can be seen from the attached, our relations with Lt. General Alfred Starbird and the NCS are extremely good; we have followed the policy of participating in all aspects of planning with the NCS to the fullest possible degree without impinging upon the security of our communications and our clandestine operational communications program. This has worked well and has proved quite practical and feasible for our respective interests under the concept espoused by General Starbird of the continued separate existence of the individual communications systems of the NCS.

4. With regard to the Director of Telecommunications Management who is also the Special Assistant to the President for Telecommunications (SAPT), we have a good working relationship and at this point have not encountered any practical difficulties which might adversely affect the Agency communications system. He has been very helpful, for example, in connection with reciprocal radio rights matters which directly affect our overseas installations. He also has, as indicated in the attached memorandum, a primary role with respect to the NCS including the review before Presidential action of major NCS proposals such as the annual long-range plan. It has been indicated that the earlier void with respect to the budget and fiscal aspects of the NCS might be filled through issuance of a government-wide directive supplementing Bureau of the Budget Circular 66-3 as it relates to programming of the telecommunications system. As preliminarily drafted by the staff of the DTM, the directive would require establishment of a separate budget category identifying in detail Agency telecommunications support and DTM/SAPT prior

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approval of new programs exceeding one million dollars. The Departments of Defense and State, which informally receive copies of this draft paper, have objected strongly, pointing particularly to the financial control considerations. Should the directive ultimately be issued, the Agency would be faced with the same control considerations and the dilemma of separately identifying the telecommunications portion of its completely integrated system which satisfies operational requirements of all Agency components as well as providing its telecommunications.

5. Our policy should be that, consonant with NSAM 252 and the Presidential Directive of 21 August 1963, we will cooperate to the fullest degree possible in the national good of achieving systems compatibility without jeopardizing the control and security of our communications system. At the point where this control and security are jeopardized, we must necessarily make our position with the Bureau of the Budget, the White House or other national authorities. Should any developments occur pertinent to the above, you will be promptly advised.

R. L. Bannerman
Deputy Director
for Support

2 Attachments:

Att 1: Memo dtd 26 Jan 66 for
DD/S fm D/CO, same subj.

Att 2: Brief of Incidents Demonstrating
Unique Capabilities of CIA
Communications System

DD/S:RLB:hrm (28 Jan 66)

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